



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
James W. Payne, Director

Warrick County Department of Child Services

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Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800-800-5556

Minutes (Revised)
Region 16 – Regional Services Council Meeting
October 11, 2005 5:00pm
The Log Inn – Warrenton, IN

Present for the meeting were Virginia Combs, Judge Robert R. Aylsworth, Judge David O. Kelley, Judge James Redwine, Judge W. Timothy Crowley, Susan Blackburn, Juanita Working, Lark Buckman, Steve Cunningham and Judith Harper.

Mrs. Combs, Region 16 Regional Manager, presided.

Introductions of all attendees was completed

Mrs. Combs outlined the goals and expectations of the Regional Services Councils noting that regionalization will create the ability for counties to provide a continuum of services...Also ensuring that the same services are available in all of the counties of the region. The Regional Services Council will look at sharing of programs and services that are successful and “best practices”.

The regional councils will be reviewing the RFP and voting on fiscal contracts for services with an emphasis on prevention, preservation and permanency, placement and post permanency. An example Mrs. Combs used was the current use of voluntary service cases in which a DCS office opens a voluntary services case for a family and provides funding to a vendor. Now the case will be approached under a prevention contract where the DCS contracts directly with the provider to provide this service and never opens a case. Also, Mrs. Combs noted that the central office is researching grant money to be utilized in addition to federal IVB funds.

Concerns raised at the meeting included the lack of time by Judges to devote to reviewing and voting on all fiscal contracts and the need to have a regional structure to accomplish the goals. Mrs. Combs assured the group that the purpose was to ensure services in all the counties and not to regionalize funding. She also indicated that the Directors will review the contracts and provide a synopsis and recommendation.



Protecting our children, families and future



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The four P's: Prevention, Preservation and Permanency, Placement, and Post Permanency were discussed and how services would be focused on these objectives. All present were encouraged to look at unmet services and thinking "outside the box" as now we will have the flexibility to develop what is needed in our communities.

Voting Council Members consist of three Judges, three Directors, a CASA Director, a foster parent, a FCM Supervisor, and a family case manager. Mrs. Combs noted that the all Judges and Directors are invited to attend and participate, but only the list above would be voting members. After some discussion it was decided by the group present that the three largest counties should have the judicial members and the Directors would fill in from the other three counties so that each county has voting representation. **The voting members will be rotated each year to allow all counties voting participation.** Further, those present decided that the CASA Director representative should be the one present, Juanita Working, and the FCM Supervisor and FCM should come from Vanderburgh Co. The foster parent representative suggested was Chis Hoehn from Posey Co. So voting representatives will be as follows:

Judge David O. Kelley, Warrick Circuit Court
Judge Timothy Crowley, Knox Superior I Court
Judge Brent Neimeier, Vanderburgh Juvenile Court
Susan Blackburn, Posey/Gibson Co. Director
Steve Cunningham, Pike Co. Director
Larry Marchino, Knox Co. Director
Juanita Working, Gibson Co. CASA Director
Chris Hoehn, Posey Co. Foster Parent

All Judges and Directors were encouraged to attend each meeting and provide input.

There was discussion concerning the frequency of meetings and circulating the meetings from county to county or meeting on the web at a designated hour. Most present concurred that the meetings should continue on a monthly face to face basis for now with other arrangements possible in the future. Monthly meetings were scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month to be on a rotating county basis. The next meeting was scheduled for November 8, 2005 at the Log Ends in Petersburg.



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